

Richard Fimbres Councilmember

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City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 7

November 2017

Dear Friends:

I want to thank the voters of Tucson, who elected me to another term as your Ward 5 Councilmember, giving me the most votes in the November 7, election. This validated the work I have done to build the Renaissance of Ward 5 and the South side.

Our work continues to bring Tucson through the dark economic tunnel that we've been in since the Great Depression. When I was sworn into office, I got the message voters sent in terms of what was needed: reforming city government, economic development and creating jobs.

During my time on the Council, we have accomplished much of this, drawing new businesses to Ward 5, helping other businesses expand their operations, annexing property and fighting to ensure that barriers to economic development are addressed, averted and that doors for new businesses are open. What we did, thanks to these efforts, has created much needed economic development and this has lead to the Renaissance of Ward 5 and the South side.

From the announcement of the expansion of Raytheon, the construction of the Home-Goods Distribution Center, the expansion of VXI Tucson, Modular Mining, CAID Industries, Alorica, the construction of the CenturyMark 14 Theater, Chamberlain, the opening of Shared Services, Body Central, Purcell Tire, Guardvant, Centene and the Culver's, McDonald's and Lin's Buffet, to name several of dozens that have occurred with more than 7,000 new jobs have been created in Ward 5 since I took office. These businesses were opened without the use of a GPLET, Government Property Lease Excise Tax incentive. The only incentive used was for Creative Machines who applied for the Global Economic Development District incentive, which dealt with permitting fees.

My efforts also included how the City of Tucson government works and to improve how your taxpayer dollars are spent. I have brought changes to the Certificate of Occupancy Process and the Land Use Code, which has resulted in hundreds of new businesses opening their doors, employing many Tucsonans and generating hundreds of millions in revenue. For Tucson to succeed, the City government must spend its limited dollars wisely, and with that, I brought forward changes to how the City spends its money for goods and services. For example, I led the effort to change how the City purchases materials by utilizing the P-Card, instead of writing checks. Through my efforts, the City has saved more than \$4.6 million last year alone, in costs, while getting a rebate check last year of \$850,000, thanks to using the P-Card.

Working with the private sector, I helped to form “Bring Back the Splash,” which raised \$100,000 in sponsorships and opened eight city swimming pools that were to be closed due to budget cuts. I brought forward a proposal to end the restrictions on advertising on Sun Tran buses. My proposal generated more than \$500,000 in advertising revenue for Sun Tran and more than \$125,000 for Sun Link.

Another change was the City of Tucson’s impoundment vehicle process, which now brings in more than \$3.0 million to go for cost recovery for TPD. Prior to this proposal, the City was getting nothing in return for the impounded vehicles that had been abandoned by their owners.

I have led the fight to keep the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center open and my efforts have taken Cherrybell from being closed in 2011 to still operating six years later. Cherrybell serves 1.5 million people in Southern Arizona and 26,000 businesses. Seniors get their pension checks in the mail and Veterans, seniors and others get their prescriptions through the mail from Cherrybell. It is important that Tucson and Southern Arizona’s post office and processing center remains open. It is important for further growth in Southern Arizona.

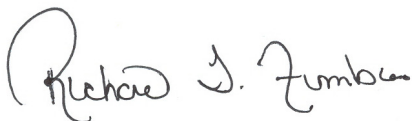
I formed the Tucson Homeless Work Program (HWP), an effort that helps to clean roadways, streets, traffic circles, alleys, and parcels while getting the homeless who are doing this work into services and housing. This is not a government program, but a partnership between the private sector, service providers and city and county government, which is showing results.

I have been blessed with a great staff through my time on the City Council, starting with my Chief of Staff, Mark Kerr, Matt Pate, Lupita Robles and Mary Kuchar. Also thanks, to Melinda Jacobs, Abe Marques, Heileen Evans, Javier Herrera, Eileen Soto and Barbara Jordan for their service to Ward 5.

I have been blessed with a great campaign team and volunteers, who walked neighborhoods with me and gathered the signatures to be on the ballot. I want to thank everyone who helped in my effort this year.

Lastly, without the love and support of my wife Mary, and my children, Richard Michael, his wife Vanessa, my grandson Roman and my son Joseph, his fiancé Ariel Maynes, Celtie and Lightning, I would not have been able to do this job. My family is my rock and I thank them for giving me the opportunity to serve Ward 5 and Tucson.

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember



Thank You Cards to Veteran's

On Thursday, November 9, I, along with Vice Mayor Regina Romero, Councilmember Shirley Scott, State Representative Todd Clodfelter, Pima County School Superintendent Dustin Williams, Pima County Clerk of the Court Toni Hellon, Ted Prezelski from the Ward 2 Council Office, Jeremy Thompson from Senate Jeff Flake's office and representatives from the Arizona Air National Guard 162nd, the Marine Corp League, American Patriot Memorial and Tucson Troop Support, went

to the Southern Arizona V.A. and presented more than 3,200 thank you cards and letters made by school children from 34 schools in Ward 5, Tucson and Pima County, they were:

Alice Vail Middle School
 Banks Elementary School
 Blenman Elementary School
 C. E. Rose K-8 School
 Carrillo Magnet School
 Cragin Elementary School
 Drachman Montessori K-8 School
 Erickson Elementary School
 Holladay Magnet Elementary School
 Lynn/Urquides Elementary School
 Mary Belle McCorkle Academy
 Roberts-Naylor K-8 School
 Robison Elementary School
 Tolson Elementary School
 White Elementary School
 Wright Elementary School
 Apollo Middle School
 Gallego Intermediate School
 Craycroft Elementary School
 Drexel Elementary School
 Liberty Elementary School
 Ocotillo Learning Center
 Summit Elementary School
 Desert View High School – AFJROTC
 Tucson International Academy –Central
 Tucson International Academy – Midvale
 Nosotros Academy
 Mexicayotl Academy
 St. Ambrose Catholic School
 St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic School
 St. Joseph Catholic School
 San Xavier Mission School
 Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School
 YWCA



I want to thank my aides, Lupita Robles, Matt Pate and my Chief of Staff Mark Kerr, for coordinating this event. For the past seven years, my office has gone to the V.A. on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day to thank the veterans for their service. I also want to thank Luke Johnson and Lori Vokic with the V.A. for their work in coordinating this with V.A. staff.

This is also to fan the flame of what patriotism is for our students.



Veteran's Day Parade

I, along with Mayor Rothschild, Vice Mayor Regina Romero and Ward 2 Councilmember Paul Cunningham took part in the 98th Annual Tucson Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 11.

It was a great day to honor those who are serving or have served our country. Tom Boyle, U.S. Army Veteran, was my guest. I want to congratulate my Post, Morgan McDermott Post 7 on their success coordinating this year's parade.



Tour Of Second Chance Reentry Programs

On Wednesday November 15, Pima College Chancellor Lee Lambert, Dan Sullivan of Pima County One Stop, and Judge Ray Carroll took part in a tour of the Arizona Department of Corrections Facility on Wilmot. This tour was to see the reentry programs DOC offers and the educational classes taught out there to help those who are going to reenter our population. I want to thank Melanie Yubeta with the Arizona Department of Corrections for arranging this informative tour.

Sixth Annual Thanksgiving Festival

Also on Saturday, November 18, I attended the Arizona Bilingual's Sixth Annual Thanksgiving Festival held at Clinica Medica Familiar in the Fry's Shopping Center at 16th Avenue. More than 1,000 turkeys were distributed. I want to congratulate Arizona Bilingual and Clinica Medica Familiar for this event. I also want to thank my aide, Lupita Robles for helping to coordinate and organize and to my Chief of Staff, Mark Kerr for his help.



Day After Thanksgiving Celebration Held

On November 24 I had the privilege of attending and reading the City Proclamation for the Day After Thanksgiving Celebration.

This event had started in 1973 by Tucson High alum Dennis Jones, celebrating life and fellowship for those living in Tucson's Sugar Hill area.



I also had the privilege of honoring Sugar Hill neighborhood leaders and community members for their work bettering the lives of their neighbors and community, as well as the Day After Thanksgiving Committee members for their work on the event. They included:

Ruth Matthews (99 years old), James A. Barnes (98 year old), Lillie Bacon (Centenarian), Christine Dillon, Berline Hopkins, Clyde Heartfield, Magnolia Cummings, Edith Hagler, Early Dixon, Willis Doty, Frances Taylor, Herman Craig, Doris Thompson, Essie Terry (98 years old), Victoria Skinner, Laurice Hunter, Ethel Coddie and Joyce Green.

I want to thank Joyce Green and the organizers for this year's event. It was a privilege to recognize residents from the neighborhoods for their work bettering the lives of their neighbors. Thanks to Mary Kuchar for preparing the certificates and Lupita Robles, from my office, for attending the event with me.





Perfecto's Mexican Express Ribbon Cutting

On November 16, I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting of Perfecto's Mexican Grill Express located at 1055 East Irvington in Ward 5. This is the second restaurant for Perfecto Leon and his family. Congratulations on the new restaurant and the five new jobs. Thanks to Lupita Robles from my office for helping to organize the grand opening.



Humberto Lopez Belled for Tucson HWP

On November 7, I had the privilege of attending a Ben's Bell's ceremony for Humberto Lopez.

I had nominated Humberto Lopez for his work supporting the Tucson Homeless Work Program, work with Sister Jose's Women's Center and Czarina's Kitchen, as well as his effort to create a Dream Center for those in need of temporary housing and services with his purchase of the Holiday Inn Holidome and working with service providers and faith based organizations.

A committee of community members selected Humberto to be "Belled" for his kindness. Congratulations Humberto on this honor.

Tom Litwicki Belled for Tucson HWP

On Wednesday, November 1, I had the privilege of attending a Ben's Bell's ceremony for Tom Litwicki, CEO of Old Pueblo Community Services.

I had nominated Tom for his work overseeing the Tucson Homeless Work Program, which Tom and Old Pueblo Community Services have helped to make a tremendous success. A committee of community members selected Tom to be "Belled" for his kindness. Congratulations Tom on this honor.



Sierra Students & Teacher Honored

August 2 was the first day of school for many schools across Ward 5 and the City of Tucson. One of which is Sierra School located at 5801 S. Del Moral.

During the Spring semester, three students and their teacher, Melissa Monk, contacted the Ward 5 Office about the safety situation and their concerns for children trying to get across the street to get to school.

The three students and Ms. Monk, also went out and got 60% of the homeowners and neighbors that surround Sierra School to sign a petition to support putting in speed tables in front of the school.



I and my staff, worked with the City Manager and the Transportation Department to get speed tables installed at Sierra Middle School.

These were paid for by savings from the Ward 5 Council office budget from the last Fiscal Year.

The speed tables were constructed and in place August 1, at Sierra.

Sierra School and the Sunnyside School District held a dedication for the speed tables today, November 28.

I presented the teacher, Melissa Monk, and the students, Ruben Corral, Jesus Armenta and Ezekial Paz with Certificates of Appreciation and Ward 5 Medallions of Hope at the ceremony held in front of Sierra School today.

The students effort showed the great results that the Sunnyside School District is doing in terms of getting students involved in bettering their community.

I want to congratulate Sunnyside School District Superintendent Steve Holmes, the staff and teachers for their work and success on their community involvement initiative.



Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes.

The National Safety Council provides some basic precautions to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season:

Putting up decorations is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but about 15,000 injuries involving holiday decorating were seen in emergency rooms during the 2012 season.

"Angel hair," made from spun glass, can irritate your eyes and skin; always wear gloves or substitute non-flammable cotton. Spraying artificial snow can irritate your lungs if inhaled; follow directions carefully.

Decorate the tree with your kids in mind; move ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks toward the top. Always use the proper step ladder; don't stand on chairs or other furniture. Lights are among the best parts of holiday decorating; make sure there are no exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets. Plants can spruce up your holiday decorating, but keep those that may be poisonous (including some Poinsettias) out of reach of children or pets; the national Poison Control Center can be reached at (800) 222-1222. Make sure paths are clear so no one trips on wrapping paper, decorations, toys, etc.; NSC provides tips for older adults on slip, trip and fall protection.

We've all heard it's important when choosing toys for infants or small children to avoid small parts that might prove to be a choking hazard. Here are some additional gift-related safety tips: Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle. Be aware of dangers associated with coin lithium batteries; of particular concern is the ingestion of button batteries. Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and 12% of home candle fires occur in December, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire. Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle. Keep candles out of reach of children. Make sure candles are on stable surfaces. Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items. Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace. Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year.

Many people choose to travel during the holidays by automobile, with the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation. In 2013, 343 people died on New Year's Day, 360 on Thanksgiving Day and 88 on Christmas Day, according to Injury Facts 2015. Alcohol-impaired fatalities represented 31% of the totals. Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment. Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance being traveled. Put that cell phone away; distracted driving causes one-quarter of all crashes. Properly maintain the vehicle and keep an emergency kit with you.

Ward 5 To Be Honored At MPA Common Ground Awards

On Friday, December 1, four projects I, and my Ward 5 staff submitted: The Tucson Marketplace, The Tucson Homeless Coalition, The Tucson Change Movement and The Tucson Homeless Work Program will be recognized at the 2017, Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) Common Ground Awards. A total of seven projects in Ward 5 are being recognized and honored. The other projects in Ward 5 that were recognized this year by MPA, included: Atlas COPCO, Sister Jose's Women's Center and the Greyhound Terminal Location.



These projects in Ward 5 were recognized by MPA for the work that has been accomplished in Ward 5 and in our community. I want to congratulate the honorees on their work and success. I am so pleased that the work and support of the South Park, Las Vistas, Pueblo Gardens and Western Hills II neighborhoods and the developers of the Bridges again were recognized for their collaboration. The Bridges is a special project bringing neighborhoods and business together for the common good of Ward 5, bringing jobs and opportunity and continuing the Renaissance of Ward 5 and the Southside.

40 Under 40 Breakfast

Congratulations to my aide, Matthew Pate and Ward 5 resident, Rene Pacheco with COPE Community Services, who will be honored at the 2017 40 Under 40 Breakfast, Tuesday, December 5.

GRM 2017 Thanksgiving Banquet Held

On November 22, the Gospel Rescue Mission (GRM) held their 2017 Thanksgiving Banquet. Thousands of men, women, and children enjoyed a free traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings and pie for dessert. My aide, Matt Pate volunteered his time to help the Gospel Rescue Mission's banquet. Congratulations to Pastor Roy Tullgren and the staff and volunteers with the Gospel Rescue Mission for their work.

**Distributing Food Boxes**

On Saturday, November 18, I went to the Fire Fighter's Union Hall on Benson Highway to help distribute food boxes to those Tucsonans in need. More than 1,000 food boxes were distributed by the Fire Fighter's and other unions. Thank you to the Fire Fighters Local 479 for coordinating the food boxes.

Ward 5 Holiday Party

Councilmember Richard Fimbres and his staff invite you to the Ward 5 Holiday Party, Thursday, December 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 S. Park Avenue. Call (520) 791-4231 to RSVP.

Frequently Used Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department
DIAL 911

Permits

Planning and Development Services Department
791-5550

Housing Assistance

City of Tucson Community Services Department
791-4739

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Transportation & Street Maintenance

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242
Public Information - 791-4331

Park Tucson

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

243-5900



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.
Give to the Community Food Bank.
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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